

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 have been examined. Claims 5, 6, 9 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and claims 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Also, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-4 and 10-17 are allowed.

I. Preliminary Matters

The Examiner has objected to the title of the invention as not being indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the title in a manner believed to overcome the objection. Applicant notes that the title should not be used to narrow the scope of the claims.

Also, the Examiner has objected to claims 5-9 and 18 due to an informality. However, since claims 5-9 and 18 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant submits that the rejection of such claims is now moot.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. 2003/0081970 to Yamamoto et al. (“Yamamoto”).

The Examiner has rejected claims 5, 6, 9 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Yamamoto. However, since claims 5, 6, 9 and 18 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant submits that the rejection of such claims is now moot.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yamamoto in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,517,292 to Yajima et al. ("Yajima").

The Examiner has rejected claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yamamoto in view of Yajima. However, since claims 7 and 8 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant submits that the rejection of such claims is now moot.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

As set forth above, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-4 and 10-17 contain allowable subject matter.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/727,985

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

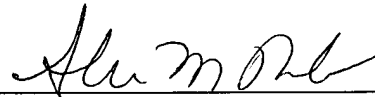
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